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PREPARING YOUR WOOL FOR SALE

Preparing the wool clip for sale involves tying the fleeces, packing them in bags, and lettering each bag with a description of the contents. A well-prepared clip of grease wool is more salable than a poorly prepared clip; but no matter how well prepared an inferior wool may be, it still will not command the premium value of a superior quality clip. It is also true, however, that THE VALUE OF ANY CLIP CAN BE INCREASED BY SUPERIOR PREPARATION. The important points of good wool preparation are given in the following paragraphs. The deductions and prices are as quoted in the Commodity Credit Corporation Schedule of Values for Domestic Shorn Wool under the 1945 Wool Purchase Program.

1. **KEEP THE FLEECES CLEAN**--Keep the shearing pens as clean as possible. Keep straw and manure out of the fleeces because this lowers the value by giving the wool a bad appearance.
2. **DON'T USE TOO MUCH BRANDING PAINT**--Branding paint on wool is nothing less than a material defect. Branding paints should always be used as sparingly as possible.
3. **DON'T PACK UNTIED OR CARELESSLY TIED FLEECES**--Except in the case of Texas 8 months and Texas fall wool, all untied clips will be discounted 2 cents per pound from the grease appraisal price. Using only paper strings, tie each fleece securely with the flesh end of the staple showing and the shoulder and side wools on the outside. Tuck in the loose ends. There will be a deduction of 10 cents per pound (clean basis) for wool tied with sisal or binder twine. **BAILING WIRE SHOULD NEVER BE USED.**
4. **TAKE ALL TAGS, DUNG LOCKS, AND STAINED PIECES OUT OF THE FLEECES**--On original bag wool the appraisers will make a deduction not to exceed 3 percent of the grease appraisal price on clips which do not have all tags and other off wools packed separately. Heavy tags are worth only 12 cents per pound and average tags are worth only 17 cents per pound on the Boston market. **PACK ALL TAGS AND SWEEPINGS IN A SEPARATE BAG.** Never put a layer of tags in a bag along with fleeces.
5. **DON'T PACK BLACK WOOL WITH WHITE WOOL**--Black fibers contaminate white wool. Black wool is worth only two-thirds of the price of white wool of comparable grade.
6. **DON'T PACK BURRY FLEECES WITH FLEECES FREE OF BURS**--Keep separate from clean wool all fleeces containing burs, foxtail, straw, leaves, or vegetable defects. The value of a clip can be lowered from 1 to 10 cents per pound (clean basis), and even more, depending on the amount of defect it contains.

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7. DON'T PACK EWE, YEARLING, AND RAM FLEECES TOGETHER--Keep these classes separate because they each have a different value. This is not necessary in clips under 3,000 pounds.
8. REQUEST SEPARATE APPRAISALS ON EWE, YEARLING, AND RAM WOOL--In this way you can get the true values for the wool in each of the above classes.
9. DON'T PACK DEAD WOOL, CRUTCHINGS, AND EYE CLIPPINGS ALONG WITH SHORN FLEECES--Keep such wools separate from the fleeces. Pack them in a separate bag. They have a lower value than the fleece wool.
10. ALWAYS MARK EVERY BAG OF WOOL TO SHOW THE CONTENTS--Every bag in the clip should be distinctly lettered with the class of wool it contains. These painted letters should be at least 6 inches in height. The following names should be used: EWE, YEARLING OR LAMB, RAM, BLACK, TAGS AND SWEEPINGS, DEAD WOOL, CRUTCHINGS, EYEBROWS, BURRY, SEEDY.
11. NEVER PACK WET WOOL--Mold develops in wet wool and stains and weakens the fibers. Always dry wet fleeces before packing them.

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It costs so little more to prepare a clip of grease wool correctly that even in this time of insufficient labor every wool grower should make a supreme effort to prepare his wool in the best way.

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